

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

October 2006 Report

CHAPTER 2.1.14.

GYRODACTYLOSIS
(*Gyrodactylus salaris*)

Article 2.1.14.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, gyrodactylosis means *infestation* with the viviparous freshwater ectoparasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* (Platyhelminthes and Monogenea).

Methods for surveillance and diagnosis are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 2.1.14.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*), North American brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*), North American lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). The recommendations also apply to any other *susceptible species* referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.

Article 2.1.14.3.

Commodities

1. When authorising the importation or transit of the following *commodities*, the *Competent Authorities* should not require any gyrodactylosis related conditions, regardless of the gyrodactylosis status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:
 - a) For the species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. for any purpose:
 - i) commercially sterile canned fish;
 - ii) leather made from fish skin.
 - b) The following *commodities* destined for human consumption from the species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. which have been prepared in such a way as to minimise the likelihood of alternative uses:
 - i) chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated, etc.);
 - ii) heat treated products (e.g. ready prepared meals and fish oil);
 - iii) *eviscerated fish* (chilled or frozen) packaged for direct retail trade;
 - iv) fillets or cutlets (chilled or frozen);
 - v) dried *eviscerated fish* (including air dried, flame dried and sun dried).

- c) For species other than those referred to in Article 2.1.14.2., all *aquatic animal products*.

For the *commodities* referred to in point 1b), Member Countries should consider introducing internal measures to prevent the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of *commodities* of a species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3., the *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 2.1.14.7. to 2.1.14.11. relevant to the gyrodactylosis status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.
3. When considering the importation or transit of any live *commodity* of a species not referred in Article 2.1.14.2. from an *exporting country, zone or compartment* not declared free of gyrodactylosis, the *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should conduct an analysis of the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of *G. salaris*, and the potential consequences, associated with the importation of the *commodity* prior to a decision. The *exporting country* should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 2.1.14.4.

Gyrodactylosis free country

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from gyrodactylosis if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from gyrodactylosis if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared gyrodactylosis free countries, *zones* or *compartments* (see Article 2.1.14.5.).

1. A country where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from gyrodactylosis when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 15 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from gyrodactylosis when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the *disease* was within the past 25 years or where the *infestation* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from gyrodactylosis when:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 2 years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of *G. salaris*.

OR

4. A country that has made a *self-declaration of freedom* from gyrodactylosis but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may not make a *self-declaration of freedom* from gyrodactylosis again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an infested zone and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infested populations have been destroyed or removed from the infested zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfestation* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of *G. salaris*.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free *zone* provided that it meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 2.1.14.5.

Article 2.1.14.5.

Gyrodactylosis free zone or free compartment

A *zone* or *compartment* within the *territory* of one or more countries not declared free from gyrodactylosis may be declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a gyrodactylosis free *zone* or *compartment* if all the *Competent Authorities* confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A *zone* or *compartment* where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. is present may be declared free from gyrodactylosis when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A *zone* or *compartment* where the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 25 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from gyrodactylosis when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A *zone* or *compartment* where the last observed occurrence of the *disease* was within the past 25 years or where the *infestation* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from gyrodactylosis when:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 2 years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of *G. salaris*.

OR

4. A *zone* previously declared free from gyrodactylosis but in which the *disease* is detected may not be declared free from gyrodactylosis again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infested zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infested populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infested zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfestation* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of *G. salaris*.

Article 2.1.14.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from gyrodactylosis following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 2.1.14.4. or 2.1.14.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as gyrodactylosis free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from gyrodactylosis following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 2.1.14.4. or 2.1.14.5. (as relevant) may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as gyrodactylosis free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of gyrodactylosis, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist, and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartments* in infested countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of gyrodactylosis, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of *infestation*.

Article 2.1.14.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from gyrodactylosis, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.1.14.4. or 2.1.14.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the *commodity* is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from gyrodactylosis.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 4.1.1.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3.

Article 2.1.14.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing, for *aquaculture*, live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from gyrodactylosis, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should:

1. require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* attesting that:
 - a) the *aquatic animals* have been held, immediately prior to export, in water with a salinity of at least 25 parts per thousand for a continuous period of at least 14 days; and
 - b) no other live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. have been introduced during that period;

OR

- c) in the case of eyed eggs, the eggs have been disinfected;

OR

2. assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:
 - a) the direct delivery into and holding of the consignment in *quarantine* facilities;
 - b) the continuous isolation of the imported *aquatic animals* and their first generation progeny from the local environment;
 - c) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of *G. salaris*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3.

Article 2.1.14.9.

Importation of live aquatic animals for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing, for processing for human consumption, live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from gyrodactylosis, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should:

1. require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* attesting that the *aquatic animals* have been held, immediately prior to export, in water with a salinity of at least 25 parts per thousand for a continuous period of at least 14 days, and no other live fish of the species listed in Article 2.1.14.2. have been introduced during that period;

OR

2. require that the consignment be delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities for slaughter and processing to one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*, and all effluent and waste materials be treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *G. salaris*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3.

Article 2.1.14.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from gyrodactylosis, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should:

1. require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* attesting that the *aquatic animals* have been held, immediately prior to export, in water with a salinity of at least 25 parts per thousand for a continuous period of at least 14 days, and no other live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. have been introduced during that period;

OR

2. require that the consignment be delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities for slaughter and processing to one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*, and all effluent and waste materials be treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *G. salaris*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3.

Article 2.1.14.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from gyrodactylosis, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.1.14.4. or 2.1.14.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from gyrodactylosis.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 4.2.1.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3.

Article 2.1.14.12.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from gyrodactylosis, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.

1. In the case of dead *aquatic animals*, whether *eviscerated* or uneviscerated, such risk mitigation measures may include:

- a) the direct delivery into and holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for processing to one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*;
- b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of *G. salaris*.

OR

- 2. The *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued from the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* attesting that the product was derived from *aquatic animals* which had been held, immediately prior to processing, in water with a salinity of at least 25 parts per thousand for a continuous period of 14 days, and no other live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.1.14.2. have been introduced during that period.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.1.14.3.